



Ferne Clyffe Lake

2013 Lake Status Summary



Ferne Clyffe Lake is a relatively clear, infertile, 16-acre, IDNR-owned impoundment located within Ferne Clyffe State Park approximately one mile south of Goreville, IL in Johnson County. The lake is mostly surrounded by forest and has a one-mile perimeter walking trail.

Largemouth bass: Largemouth bass are the most abundant species of fish present in Ferne Clyffe Lake. Bass were collected at a rate of 174 per hour of electrofishing in spring 2013, and 45% were larger than 12 inches. Most Ferne Clyffe bass range from 8 to 14 inches in size, but it is not unusual for one or more trophy-sized bass to show up in the spring electrofishing sample. The spring 2013 survey was no exception, as it produced two fish that weighed 8.9 and 10 pounds. Body condition of large bass was excellent, but condition of smaller fish was slightly less than the management plan goal.

Bluegill: Bluegill numbers were relatively low in the sample produced by spring 2013 electrofishing (40 per hour), but 23% of these fish were larger than 7 inches. A few bluegill (8%) were also 8 inches or more in length. Bluegill body condition was very good.

Redear: As usual, redear were less abundant than bluegill in 2013, but 82% of these fish were larger than 7 inches, 73% were longer than 8 inches, and 27% exceeded 9 inches in length. Redear body condition was also excellent.

Channel catfish: Generally few channel catfish are collected during the annual spring Ferne Clyffe Lake electrofishing survey due to clear, cool water conditions, and 2013 was no exception, as none were included in the sample. Channel catfish are stocked annually to maintain the population.

Crappie: A few black crappie were included in the spring 2013 sample. These fish ranged from 4 to 10 inches in size and were in good physical condition.

Rainbow trout: Rainbow trout are stocked in Ferne Clyffe Lake in spring and fall to coincide with seasons which begin the first Saturday of April and the third Saturday of October. The Ferne Clyffe trout fishery is very popular with the angling public. Possession of an inland trout stamp is required for harvesting rainbow trout.

Regulations in effect:

- Largemouth bass – no length limit, 6 per day creel limit.
- Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit.
- Rainbow trout -- 5 per day creel limit.
- No boats allowed.

Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information or the www.ifishillinois.org website.

Additional Fisheries Information can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Chris Bickers at 618-993-7094, or by contacting the site at 618-995-2411.